

ELECTROCHEMICAL DETECTION OF NUCLEIC ACID HYBRIDIZATION

Abstract

A method of detecting a nucleic acid (*e.g.*, DNA, RNA) that contains at least one preselected base (*e.g.*, adenine, guanine, 6-mercaptoguanine, 8-oxo-guanine, and 8-oxo-adenine) comprises (a) reacting the nucleic acid with a transition metal complex capable of oxidizing the preselected base in an oxidation-reduction reaction; (b) detecting the oxidation-reduction reaction; and (c) determining the presence or absence of the nucleic acid from the detected oxidation-reduction reaction at the preselected base. The method may be used in a variety of applications, including DNA sequencing, diagnostic assays, and quantitative analysis.